

In the Specification

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8, with the following:

§, Skin layer 104 has a bottom surface 106 which is affixed to the top surface 110 of 4-way stretchable material layer 112 by a permanent adhesive 108 that completely covers skin layer 104 from edge to edge. The permanent adhesive 108 can be any permanent adhesive known in the art which will permanently bond skin layer 104 to 4-way stretchable material layer 112. An example of such a permanent adhesive is FLEXICON® adhesive V-402. However, it will be clear to one skilled in the art that other similar suitable adhesives may be used.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 8, with the following:

§2 4-way stretchable layer 112 has top surface 110 and a bottom surface 114, such that top surface 110 of 4-way stretchable layer 112 conforms to and is permanently affixed to bottom surface 106 of skin layer 104. 4-way stretchable layer 112 may be comprised of any material that can simultaneously stretch in four directions such as MYLAR®. Bottom surface 114 of 4-way stretchable layer 112 is releasably attached to the railing or hand support system by a layer of releasable adhesive 116. Releasable adhesive 116 completely covers from edge to edge and is affixed to 4-way stretchable layer 112 and provides releasable adhesion to the railing or hand support system. Releasable adhesive 116 provides secure adhesion to the railing or hand support system but may be removed with a minimal amount of effort by peeling grip 100 off the railing or hand support system. An example of a releasable adhesive is FLEXICON® V-58.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 9, with the following:

B3 In one embodiment of grip **100** disclosed in FIG. 3, the lengthwise edges of skin layer **104** and 4-way stretchable layer **112** may be tapered in thickness. FIG. 2 discloses a top view of grip **100**. FIG. 3 discloses a cross sectional view of grip **100** taken from cross sectional line A to A **101** of FIG. 2. Tapering the edges of skin layer **104** and 4-way stretchable layer **112** allows for the edges to overlap when wrapping a railing or hand support system and at the same time to maintain a constant thickness of grip **100** despite the overlapping edges. In another embodiment, the edges are tapered but wrapped in such a way that they do not overlap to provide still more friction for the user. In still another embodiment, the lengthwise edges of skin layer **104** and 4-way stretchable layer **112** are not tapered for instances when the edges do not overlap.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 with the following:

B4 Skin layer **204** has a bottom surface **206** which is affixed to top surface **210** of backing layer **212** by a permanent adhesive **208** which completely covers bottom surface **214** backing layer **212** from edge to edge. The permanent adhesive **208** can be any permanent adhesive known in the art which will permanently bond skin layer **204** to backing layer **212**. An example of such a permanent adhesive is FLEXICON® adhesive V-402. However, it will be clear to one skilled in the art that other similar suitable adhesives may be used.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 10 with the following:

Backing layer **212** has a top surface **210** and a bottom surface **214**, such that top surface **210** of backing layer **212** conforms to and is affixed to bottom surface **206** of skin layer **204**. Backing layer **212** may be comprised of any material suitable for providing support including open cell foam, closed cell foam, felt, paper or rubber. Bottom surface **214** of backing layer **212** is permanently adhered to the top surface **218** of 4-way stretchable material **220**. The permanent adhesive attaching bottom surface **214** of backing layer **212** to top surface **218** of 4-way stretchable material **220** can be any permanent adhesive known in the art which will permanently bond the surfaces an example of which is FLEXICON® V-402. 4-way stretchable material **220** has the ability to stretch in all directions simultaneously. An example of a 4-way stretchable material is MYLAR®. Bottom surface **222** of 4-way stretchable layer **220** is releasably attached to the railing or hand support system by releasable adhesive **224**. Releasable adhesive **224** is affixed to and completely covers 4-way stretchable material **220** from edge to edge and provides releasable adhesion to the railing or hand support system. Releasable adhesive **224** provides secure adhesion to the railing or hand support system but may be removed with a minimal amount of effort by peeling grip **200** off the railing or hand support system. An example of a releasable adhesive is FLEXICON® V-58.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 11, with the following:

In one embodiment of grip **200** disclosed in FIG. 4, the lengthwise edges of skin layer **204**, backing layer **212** and 4-way stretchable layer **220** may be tapered in thickness. FIG. 5 discloses a top view of grip **200**. FIG. 6 discloses a cross sectional view of grip **200** taken from cross sectional line A to A **201** of FIG. 5. Tapering the